

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02
/057 W

-----111218Z 007153 /17

R 110932Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5957

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, RP
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: CASE OF PURIFICACION PEDRO

1. ON FEBRUARY 10, AMRSP DETAINEES COMMITTEE MEMBER GAVE EMBASSY FACT SHEET ON PURIFICACION PEDRO, ARRESTED IN BATAAN JANUARY 18 AFTER BEING SHOT IN THE SHOULDER. SHE WAS TAKEN TO BATAAN PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL. HER FAMILY NOTIFIED OF HER ARREST AND ALLOWED TO VISIT HER. ON JANUARY 23, AT APPROXIMATELY 5:00 P.M. MEMBERS OF THE FIFTH CONSTABULARY SECURITY UNIT, LED BY COL. MIGUEL AURE, VISITED HOSPITAL AND FORCED MISS PEDRO'S SESTERTO LEAVE. AT 6:30 P.M. A HOSPITAL ATTENDANT ENTERED AND THEN LEFT MISS PEDRO'S ROOM VISIBLY DISTURBED. WHEN HER SISTER ALLOWED ENTER ROOM SHE DISCOVERED MISS PEDRO IN BATHROOM LEANING AGAINST THE DOOR WITH HER FEET ON THE FLOOR HANGING BY A WIRE. DEATH REPORT STATES MISS PEDRO DIED BY "ASPHYXIATION BY STRANGULATION." BULLETIN TODAY, WHICH IDENTIFIED MISS PEDRO AS NPA LEADER, REPORTED JANUARY 28 THAT SHE HAD "COMMITTED SUICIDE INSIDE HER ROOM"

2. MISS PEDRO'S BROTHER ERNESTO DE PEDRO (WELL KNOWN DOCUMENTARY FILM MAKER) DISCUSSED HIS SISTER'S DEATH IN SOME DETAIL WITH ASSISTANT INFORMATION OFFICER USIS FEBRUARY 10 (MEMCON POUCHED EA/PHL AND D/HA). MISS PEDRO WAS 28- YEAR-OLD

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UP GRADUATE WORKING IN TONDO AS SOCIAL WORKER. HER ORGANIZATION MAY HAVE BEEN CONNECTED WITH NASSA (NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF SOCIAL ACTION). SHE WAS ALLEGEDLY NOT NPA MEMBER, BUT WENT TO BATAAN WITH NPA MEMBERS TO MEET SOME OF HER OLD FRIENDS FROM UP. SHE APPARENTLY TOLD MILITARY FRIEND WHO SUGGESTED VISIT TO BATAAN WAS NAMED JULIETTE (NAME OF WIFE OF CPP/ML LEADER

JOSE MARIA SISON) AND THIS LED THEM TO BELIEVE SHE HAD
VALUABLE INFORMATION.

3. MISS PEDRO'S BROTHER ALSO SPOKE ABOUT HIS SISTER'S
CASE ON FEBRUARY 2 AT SENATOR SALONGA'S WEDNESDAY FORUM
AT WHICH AP REPRESENTATIVE WAS PRESENT. AP CORRESPONDENT
SUBSEQUENTLY INTERVIEWED DE PEDRO. SO FAR NOTHING HAS
APPEARED ON AP WIRE. DE PEDRO HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY
FATHER ORTIZ OF CHURCH MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE, AS
WELL AS BY SOME NUNS, WHO DISCUSSED PUBLICIZING HIS
SISTER'S CASE. DE PEDRO HAS ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH WITH
SECRETARY ENRILE'S OFFICE AND HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT
ENRILE WILL BE LOOKING INTO THE CASE.

4. COMMENT: IN DISCUSSING CASE WITH EMBOFF, AMRSP
DETAINEES COMMITTEE MEMBER SAID PEDRO CASE WAS THE
LILIOSA HILAO CASE ALL OVER AGAIN. DEPARTMENT CAN
REVIEW THIS CASE IN AMRSP PUBLICATION POLITICAL PRISONERS
IN THE PHILIPPINES. HILAO WAS ALLEGEDLY A SUICIDE, BUT
IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED SHE DIED AS RESULT OF TORTURE.
WHILE DETAILS OF CASE ARE NOT CLEAR (FOR EXAMPLE,
EXTENT OF MISS PEDRO'S CONNECTION WITH NPA), IT WOULD
APPEAR SHE SUCCUMBED DURING OR AS RESULT OF INTERROGA-
TION IN WHICH TORTURE EMPLOYED. CASE HAS POTENTIAL FOR
MAJOR EXPLOITATION BY ANTI-MARCOS CHURCH GROUPS
HERE AND MARCOS' CRITICS ABROAD. WE SHALL MONITOR CASE
CLOSELY TO SEE WHAT ACTION, IF ANY, IS TAKEN AGAINST
MILITARY WHO APPEAR TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MISS PEDRO'S
DEATH.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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